

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1 - 6, 8 - 19 and 21 are now in the application. Claims 7 and 20 have been previously cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5, 12 - 14, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9 - 11 and 15 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fushimi et al. The Examiner has also rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fushimi et al. However, the Examiner has found Claims 2, 5, 12 - 14 and 21 to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 5, 12 - 14 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants' amended Claims 1 and 17 now call for (underlining added for emphasis) "... wherein the supports are made of a metal material." As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 17 are not anticipated by Fushimi et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Fushimi et al, while providing for support members 104 being conductive material, the conductive material is deemed to be high-resistance, and, more specifically, formed of low-melting point glass having an electric resistance of about $10^{10}\Omega$. (See Fushimi et al., Column 22, lines 8 - 20) As such, the Fushimi et al. support members are not made of metal material, as in accordance with the present invention, since metal material does not provide high ohmic resistance.

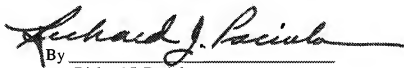
Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 17 are not anticipated by Fushimi et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are dependent on Claim 1. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 1.

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Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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